



LESSONS FROM THE FIELD

Mary Carmichael
Terry Croy Lewis
Elisa Falco

PURPOSE:
LIFT THE HOOD ON CSO
GOVERNANCE ENGINES
&
INSPIRE CSOS TO EMBRACE
GOVERNANCE DEVELOPMENT AS
PART OF THEIR CORE PURPOSE
IT MAKES EVERYTHING ELSE EASIER.

Cross the Continental Divide of Great Governance

Terry Croy Lewis, Ph.D.

Vice President of School Quality and Support

focus on achievement



COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS

focus on achievement

Colorado Charter Schools

- My background:
 - I have been in the Colorado charter school sector for almost 20 years.
 - Founder, Governing Board Member (currently on an AEC board), School Leader
- League began in 1993
- League staff: 17.5 FTEs
 - President: Nora Flood



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Colorado Charter Schools

- The first two charters opened in Colorado in 1993:
 - The Connect School, Pueblo
 - Academy Charter School, Castle Rock
- Today we have 223 charter school campuses in Colorado.
- Over 101,000 students attend Colorado charter schools.
 - This equals 11.7% of total K-12 public school enrollment in the state.



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League's Strategic Plan: Governance Metrics

- Increasing member schools' governance capacity (as measured by a survey of board chairs in May 2014)
 - a) % of schools reporting that a majority of the board has been on the board for at least 12 months
 - b) % of schools rating the board as 8 or higher in the effectiveness of its oversight of management



The Governance Training Landscape in Colorado

- Governance training is not mandated by state statute.
- Colorado Charter School Program (CCSP) grant recipients are required to complete a certain amount of governance training.



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The Governance Training Landscape in Colorado

- Options include:
 - Charter School Board Training Modules available on the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) website
 - Board Continuing Development – CDE/League partnership
 - Board Fundamentals - CDE/League partnership
 - League Annual Conference
 - League Customized Training
 - League Strategic Planning
 - Charter 411 Help Desk



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Governance – CCSP Grant Technical Assistance Requirements Training

CCSP Grant: Tech Asst Requirements - Governance	Events per year
Charter Board Training Modules	30 modules – complete collectively
Board Fundamentals	2 events (Fall and Spring)
Board Continuing Development	2 events (Fall and Spring)
Board member attends 3 or more break out sessions at the League conference	Once per year
Specialized board training	League or other approved trainers
Performance Management for boards	League or other approved trainers

League Stats – 2014-2015 SY

By the Numbers...

- League's trainers (on staff) – 2 - Nora and Terry
- League's Cadre of Governance Trainers (contractors) – 3
- Total number of governance trainings last year – 28 (Nora and Terry facilitated 43% of these)
- Total number of strategic planning sessions last year – 9 (Nora and Terry facilitated 100% of these)
- Cost – Governance Training – half day, \$650
Strategic Planning – 2 or 3 days - \$1,000 to \$2500



Outreach Strategies: We don't need any stinking training!

- Nora is our secret weapon. Who wouldn't want to spend a day with Nora?
- School visits, marketing
- Onboarding on our new schools
- Membership Council Reps
- Authorizer's Visits
- Administrators Mentoring Cohort
- CDE support – CCSP Grant



Contact Information

Colorado League of Charter Schools

Terry Croy Lewis

Vice President of School Quality and Support

303-989-5356, ext. 120

tcroylewis@coloradoleague.org

www.coloradoleague.org



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Supporting Quality Governance

Elisa A Falco
Vice President of School Services
efalco@gacharters.org



Georgia Charter Schools Association

My background:

- 12 years experience working in the charter sector in Georgia
- Founding faculty, board member, principal, parent

Association Info:

- Association Staff – 15 full-time staff
- Association President – Dr. Tony Roberts

Georgia's Charter Landscape

Georgia Charter Schools...by the numbers:

- There are 74 autonomous charter schools in Georgia.
- Georgia's charter schools serve over 50,000 students, based on 2014 enrollment data.

Governance Training in Georgia

Georgia Charter Statute

- Annual training required
- SBOE Rule 160-4-9-.06

Annual Requirements

- New members – 15 hours
- Existing members – 9 hours

Governance Training in Georgia

GCSA's Governance Offerings

- Whole board team training on effective governance
- Customized retreats
- Charter school finance and budgeting
- Webinar series
- Board bank
- Annual conference
- Operational assessments
- Strategic / succession planning
- Board member affinity group
- Sustainability institute

Governance Support for Authorizers

GCSA Participates in Two Governance Retreats for the State Charter Schools Commission (SCSC)

GCSA is on contract with the Georgia Department of Education to assist charters deemed “at risk” due to governance problems.

We provide training for local school boards on effective authorizer practices.

GCSA's Governance Work FY2015

Training Conducted:

- Trained 51 governing boards
- Conducted 2 retreats for the SCSC
- Facilitated and wrote 4 strategic plans
- Conducted 3, two-day board retreats
- Worked with 3 “at risk” schools

GCSA's Governance Work FY2015

GCSA's Trainers:

- Elisa Falco
- Waynica Staples

Training Fees

Service	Cost
Fundamentals of effective Governance (3 hours)	\$1,000
Webinar Series	\$50 / person per 1-hour webinar (\$20 / person, per webinar when paired with another service)
Strategic Planning	Facilitation Only - \$2,500 Facilitation & Plan Development \$10,000
Charter School Finance & Budgeting	\$300 per person
Operational Assessment	Basic - \$4,500 Comprehensive - \$6,000
Charter Policy Manual	\$2,500
Board Bank	Free
Sustainability Institute	\$2,000 - \$4,000, depending on scope of work
Board Member Affinity Group	Free – Meets quarterly

Marketing and Outreach

- Annual visits with all members schools
- Community meetings
- Chambers of commerce
- Authorizer meetings
- Affinity groups
- New school development and training

Elisa A. Falco, *VP of
School Services*
efalco@gacharters.org
(404) 550-9401
www.gacharters.org



Governance Work:

Orientation Program

Advanced Board Training and Retreats

Strategic Planning

Leadership Hiring Process Coaching

What does the Alliance do?



Requirement
in the law –
minimal, but
there

State Required Orientation

Section 59-40-155. Within one year of taking office, all persons elected or appointed as members of a charter school board of trustees after July 1, 2006, shall complete successfully an orientation program in the powers, duties, and responsibilities of a board member including, but not limited to, topics on policy development, personnel, instructional programs, school finance, school law, ethics, and community relations. The orientation must be provided at no charge by the State Department of Education or an association approved by the department.

Contact Info

□ Contact information

Mary Carmichael

Executive Director

Public Charter School Alliance of South Carolina

Mary.Carmichael@SCCharterSchools.org

Mobile - [1-843-743-6406](tel:1-843-743-6406)

Mary.Carmichael@sccharterschools.org

Find the governance slides: <http://www.sccharterschools.org/board-training-and-elections>



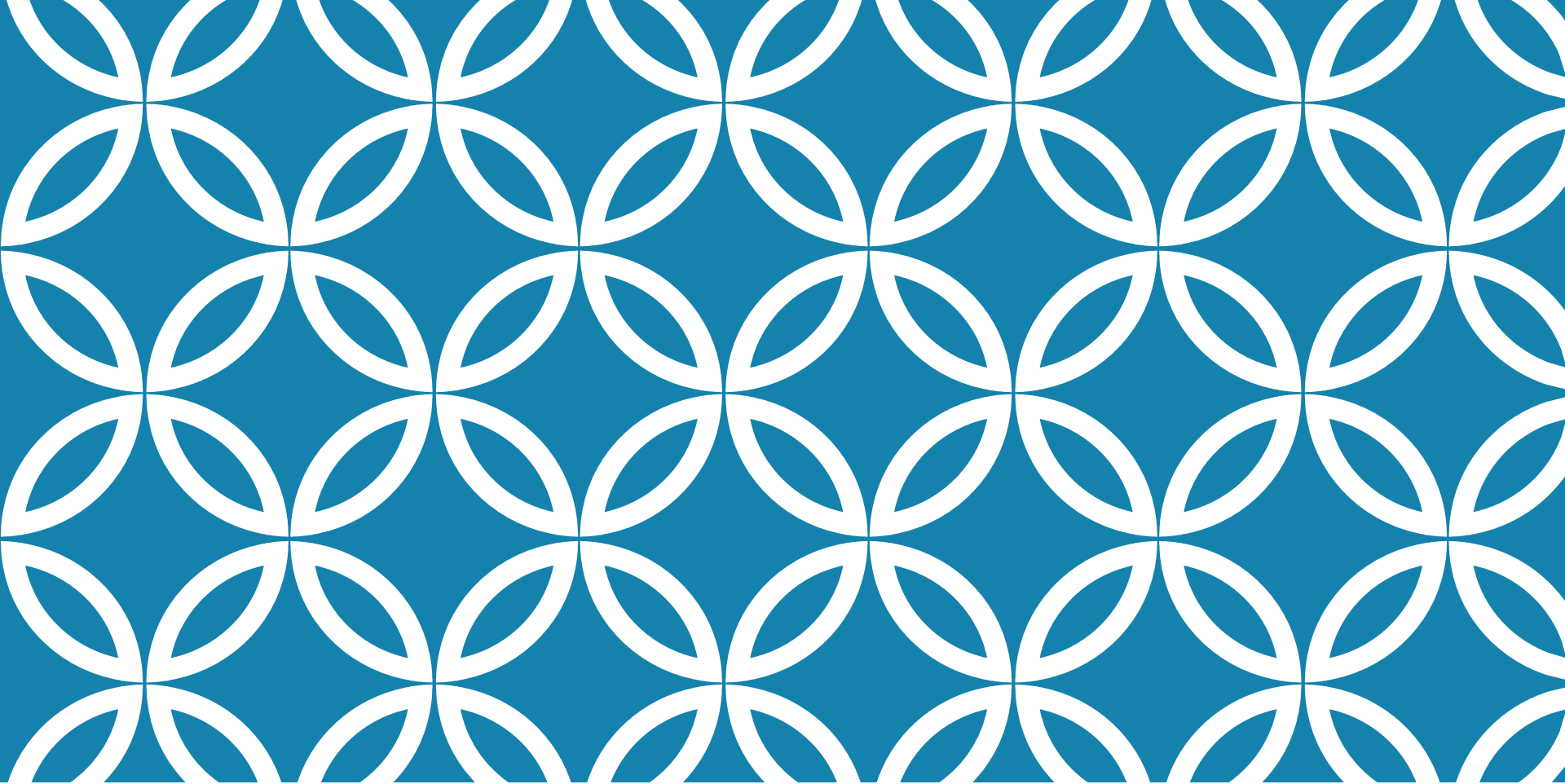
LESSONS FROM THE FIELD

Which programs are having the most impact? Are you measuring that for funders or for the CSO strategic plan?

Please share how you avoid “preaching to the choir” and engage/prioritize schools that really need governance training, strategic planning, and/or support services. What do those outreach strategies look like?

Could you share the short version of the business plan of your governance work? Percent of funding from philanthropy, percent fees for service. Is it self-sustaining without philanthropic dollars?

How do you transition groups from startup charter committees doing a lot of volunteer work to a governing board? – How do you keep them engaged in your services?



QUESTIONS

Mary Carmichael
Terry Croy Lewis
Elisa Falco